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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,146	06/30/2000	James A. Bonini	60794-B/JPW/KRD	2958

7590 10/20/2003

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EXAMINER
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O HARA, EILEEN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2003

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/609,146

Applicant(s)

BONINI ET AL.

Examiner

Eileen O'Hara

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 235-251, 254-263, 266-271 and 276-281 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 235, 236, 238-244, 246-250, 254-258, 260-263, 266, 267, 269-271, 276, 277, 279 and 280 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 237, 245, 251, 259, 268, 278 and 281 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \*   c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 235-251, 254-263, 266-271 and 276-281 are pending in the instant application.

All claims are currently under examination.

***Specification***

2. Applicants' amendment to change the title is acknowledged.

***Withdrawn Objections and Rejections***

3. Any objection or rejection of record which is not expressly repeated in this action has been overcome by Applicant's response and withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 235-251, 254-263, 266-271 and 276-281 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The instant specification discloses two receptors, human and rat SNORF72, having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 25, respectively, and teaches that these are receptors for neuromedin U (NMU) neuropeptides. Therefore, the instant specification has written description for a method of competitive binding using NMU neuropeptides and the

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receptors of the instant invention. However, the claims are drawn to the methods of competitive binding using receptors that have above 75% (at least 76%) amino acid identity to those receptors. Receptors that are that divergent from the receptors of the instant invention may not bind NMU neuropeptides and may bind other ligands, and the limitation “a second compound known to bind to the receptor” does not require that the divergent receptors bind NMU neuropeptides. Therefore, the claims encompass proteins that have no known function and bind unknown ligands. The instant disclosure of two orthologs, that of SEQ ID NO: 4 and 25 with the instantly disclosed specific activities, does not adequately support the scope of the claimed genus, which encompasses a substantial variety of subgenera. A genus claim may be supported by a representative number of species as set forth in *Regents of the University of California v Eli Lilly & Co*, 119F3d 1559, 1569, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997), which states:

“To fulfill the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe an invention and do so in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can clearly conclude that “the inventor invented the claimed invention”. Lockwood v. American Airlines, Inc., 107 F.3d 1565, 1572, 41 USPQ2d 1961, 1966 (1997); In re Gosteli, 872 F.2d 1008, 1012, 10 USPQ2d 1614, 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1980) (“[T]he description must clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [the inventor] invented what is claimed.”) Thus, an applicant complies with the written description requirement “by describing the invention, with all its claimed limitations, not that which makes it obvious,” and by using “such descriptive means as words, structures, figures, diagrams, formulas, etc., that set forth the claimed invention.” Lockwood, 107 F.3d 1565, 1572, 41 USPQ2d at 1966.

An adequate written description of a DNA, such as the cDNA of the recombinant plasmids and microorganisms of the ‘525 patent, “requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, chemical name, or physical properties,” not a mere wish or plan for obtaining the claimed chemical invention. Fiers v. Revel, 984 F.2d 1164, 1171, 25 USPQ2d 1601, 1606 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Accordingly, “an adequate written description of a DNA requires more than a

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mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method for isolating it; what is required is a description of the DNA itself.” Id at 1170, 25 USPQ2d at 1606.”

A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNAs, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus, or of a recitation of structural features common to the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus. The instant specification discloses, however, two isolated orthologs of SEQ ID NO: 4 and 25. Protein function, however, cannot be reliably predicted from protein sequence homology. For example, Transforming Growth Factor (TGF-beta) Family OP-1 induces metanephrogenesis whereas closely related TGF-beta family members-BMP-2 and TGF-beta1-have no effect on metanephrogenesis under identical conditions (Vukicevic et al., 1996, PNAS USA 93:9021-9026). Platelet-derived Growth Factor (PDGF) Family VEGF, a member of the PDGF family, is mitogenic for vascular endothelial cells but not for vascular smooth muscle cells while PDGF is mitogenic for vascular smooth muscle cells but not for vascular endothelial cells (Tischer et al., U.S. Patent 5,194,596, column 2, line 46 to column 3, line 2). Finally, vertebrate growth hormone of 198 amino acids becomes an antagonist (inhibitor of growth) when a single amino acid is changed (Kopchick et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,350,836). Even 99% homology does not allow predictability in this instance. Given the unpredictability of homology comparisons, and the fact that the specification fails to provide objective evidence that the additional sequences are indeed species of the claimed genus it cannot be established that a representative number of species have been disclosed to support the genus claim. No specific activity is set forth for the additional sequences. The instantly claimed genus is not so limited

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and the prior art does not provide compensatory structural or correlative teachings to enable one of skill to identify the polypeptides encompassed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 235, 238-243, 246-249, 254-256, 260-266, 269-276 and 279 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elshourbagy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,461,836, filing date April 10, 2000, for reasons of record in the previous Office Action, Paper No. 13, at pages 3-5.

Applicants traverse the rejection and assert that as the parent application of Elshourbagy et al. (No. 09/435,384) did not disclose the receptor ligand (neuromedin U peptides), the Elshourbagy et al. patent is not entitled to the filing date of Nov. 5, 1999 of the parent. Applicants' arguments are persuasive, and the effective filing date of Elshourbagy et al. is April 10, 2000, which is still before the effective filing date of the instant invention. It is acknowledged on page 6 of the response that Applicants will submit a declaration under 35 USC § 1.131, however, the claims still remain rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 236, 244, 250, 257, 258, 267, 277 and 280 remain rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behan et al., WO 00/22131, April 20, 2000 (cited by Applicants in IDS Paper No. 5), in view of Elshourbagy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,461,836, and further in view of Conklin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,383,761, filing date July 27, 1998, for reasons of record in the previous Office Action, Paper No. 13, at pages 5-7.

It is believed that all pertinent arguments have been answered.

***Conclusion***

7.1 Claims 235, 236, 238-244, 246-250, 254-258, 260-263, 266, 267, 269-271, 276, 277, 279 and 280 are rejected.

7.2 Claims 237, 245, 251, 259, 268, 278 and 281 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eileen B. O'Hara, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3312.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached at (703) 308-6564.

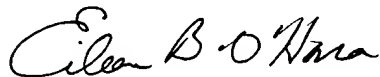
Official papers Before Final filed by RightFax should be directed to (703) 872-9306.

Official papers After Final filed by RightFax should be directed to (703) 872-9307.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Eileen B. O'Hara, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen B. O'Hara".

Patent Examiner